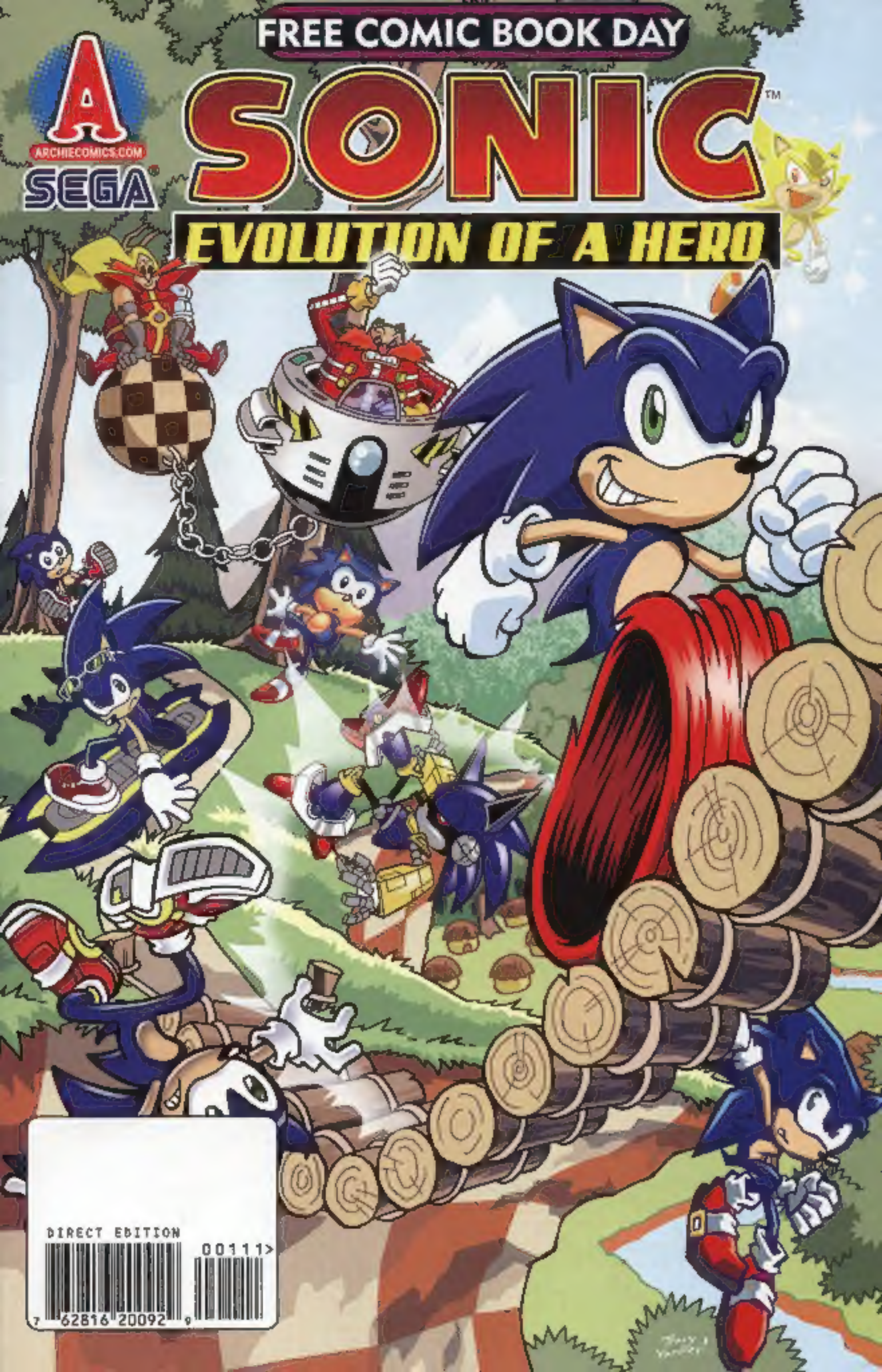
FREE COMIC BOOK DAY



THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC™ THE HEDGEHOG

SONIC OF THE AGES!

Welcome to Sonic the Hedgehog's Free Comic Book Day Issue for 2009! It's been a long and exciting road for Sonic as he's grown from a little four-part mini-series into the success he is today! We've just reached our milestone 200th issue! In that time, Sonic has seen multiple mini-series, nearly two-dozen 48-page specials and three spin-off titles! Whew! With sixteen years of stories it can be a little hard to keep up with all of the adventure. Never fear - this handy anthology issue is here! So whether you're brand new to Mobius or a veteran Sonic fan, we hope you enjoy this look at *SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!*

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CINDY CHAU & JERRY CHU AT SEGA LICENSING

DATA-FILE: SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

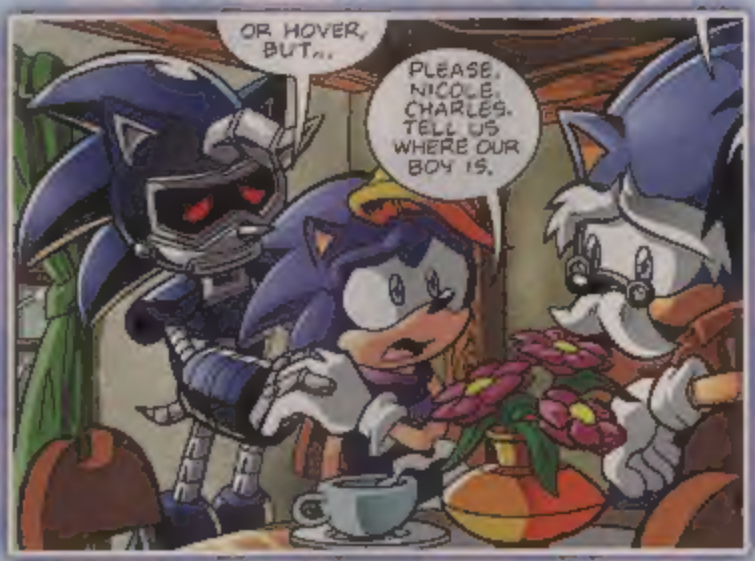
Sonic the Hedgehog was born in the city of Mobotropolis just as the Great War was starting up. He was still little when his Uncle Chuck moved him out of the city limits after Dr. Robotnik's coup d'etat.

Sadly, Uncle Chuck soon fell under the evil doctor's control and Sonic joined the Freedom Fighters in the hidden village of Knothole.

Sonic helped the Freedom Fighters in many battles to rescue their families and retake their home city. He traveled the world to catch the evil wizard Ixis Naugus, has traveled across time, space, and other Zones – all at super-speed!

Sonic now calls New Mobotropolis his home and has his family back. His Uncle Chuck and mother, Bernie, are back to normal. His father, Jules, is back in spirit but remains trapped as a robotic-ized Mobian, or "Robian."

Despite all their hardships, the Hedgehog Family is whole and happy!



INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Tracy Yardley & Jim Amash

DATA-FILE: THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Sonic the Hedgehog – Fastest, coolest dude on the planet. Sonic provides speed and power to the team that can turn the tide of almost any battle.

Princess Sally Acorn – Founder and field leader of the team. Smart, agile and compassionate, she is the perfect leader of her childhood friends.

Miles "Tails" Prower – Once a junior member, Tails has proven himself time and again! Tails provides air support, high-tech support, and is powerful himself. (He learned from Sonic, after all!)

Antoine D'Coolette – The son of a general, Antoine has overcome his years of cowardice to become an excellent swordsman and tactician. (He's still easy to spook, though!)

Bunnie D'Coolette – Half-roboticized, Bunnie uses her cybernetic half to provide heavy-hitting force to the team! She has to be careful with her rocket-feet, laser cannon and force-field – they run off her life-force!

Amy Rose – Sonic's self-proclaimed girlfriend! Amy is quick, fierce and swings her magic Piko Piko Mallet with incredible force! She's new to the team, but she fits right in!

Rotor Walrus – A tech wiz who keeps the team supplied and prepared and helped make Tails the genius he is today! He splits his time helping the team and helping to run the city as a Councilor on the Acorn Council.

Nicole – An artificial intelligence that has long served as a mentor to Sally. She lives within their computer systems, and has a holographic body when in their city of New Mobotropolis.

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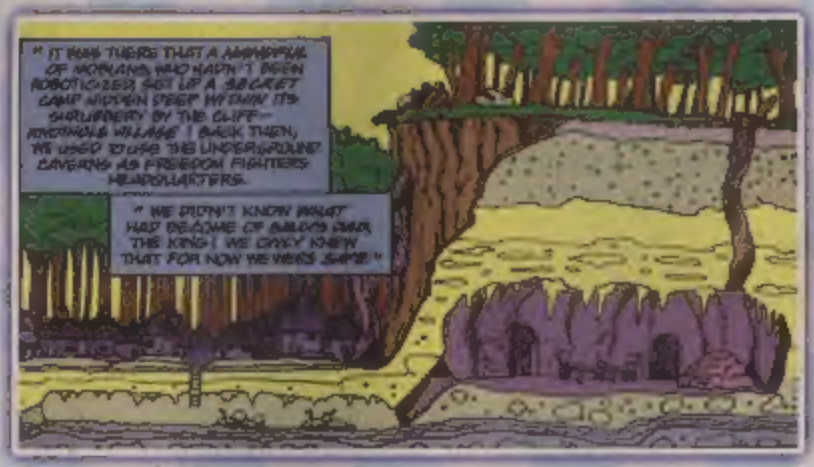
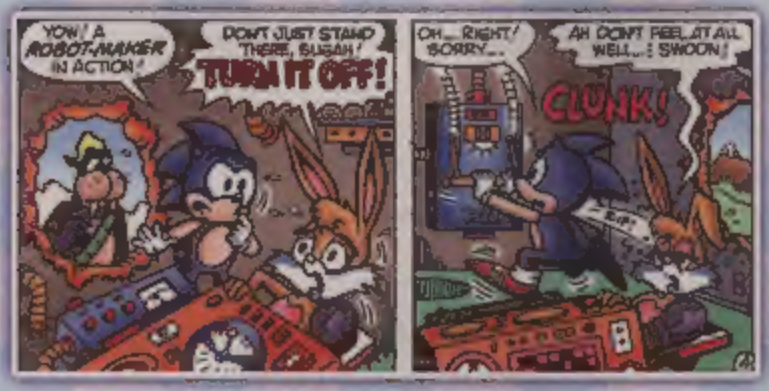
The Freedom Fighters were at first just little kids living out of the hidden village of Knothole. They were exiled from their home city of Mobotropolis by Dr. Robotnik and pulled small raids to save the Mobians not yet caught by his badniks and SWAT-Bots.

The team was small then: just Sally, Rotor, Antoine and a hot-headed newcomer named Sonic.

They worked out of a clubhouse deep in an old limestone cave. When things outside got dangerous, they'd slip to safety via the Great Oak Slide.



Sonic would later rescue Bunnie from a roboticizer...



...but not before half of her body was transformed.

Little Tails tagged along, striving to be like his hero, Sonic. They grew and improved over the ten years they fought Dr. Robotnik's forces.

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Manny Galan, Art Mawhinney, Dave Manak & Jim Amash

DATA-FILE: OTHER FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Geoffrey St. John is a suave spy and archer. Former leader of the Rebel Underground, Geoffrey once led his own team – the Royal Secret Service.

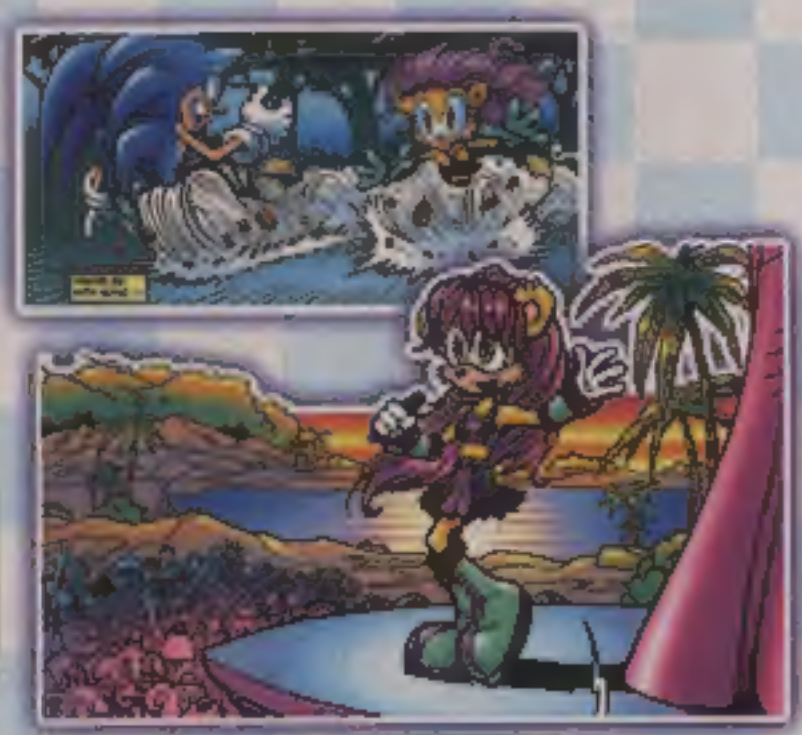
After Dr. Robotnik's treachery broke the team apart, Geoffrey kept to a duo act with his wife, Hershey Cat.

The Substitute Legion of Freedom Fighters were mostly made up of Sally's personally-trained members.

Led by Larry Lynx, the team acted as back-up for the Freedom Fighters.

The team has since disbanded with most of its members now serving on the Acorn Council.

Mina Mongoose is a super-speedy singer. She joined the Freedom Fighters as a shy girl; unsure of herself. She found life in battle wasn't for her, and she moved on to become a singing sensation!

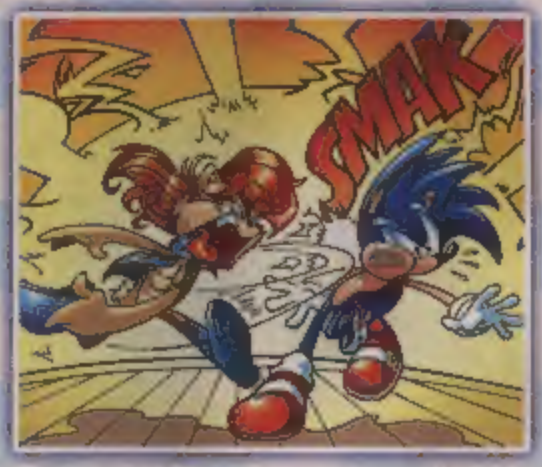


Now she travels the world, rallying the heroes and lightening spirits with her band: The Forget-Me-Knots!

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Sam Maxwell, Manny Galan, Andrew Pepoy, Art Mawhinney, Steven Butler & Rich Koslowski

DATA-FILE: THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS - THE HARD TIMES

Not everything has gone well for our heroes. Robotropolis – their city once known as Mobotropolis – was lost to them by nuclear missiles.



Sonic and Sally, once a serious couple, had a heart-breaking falling out.

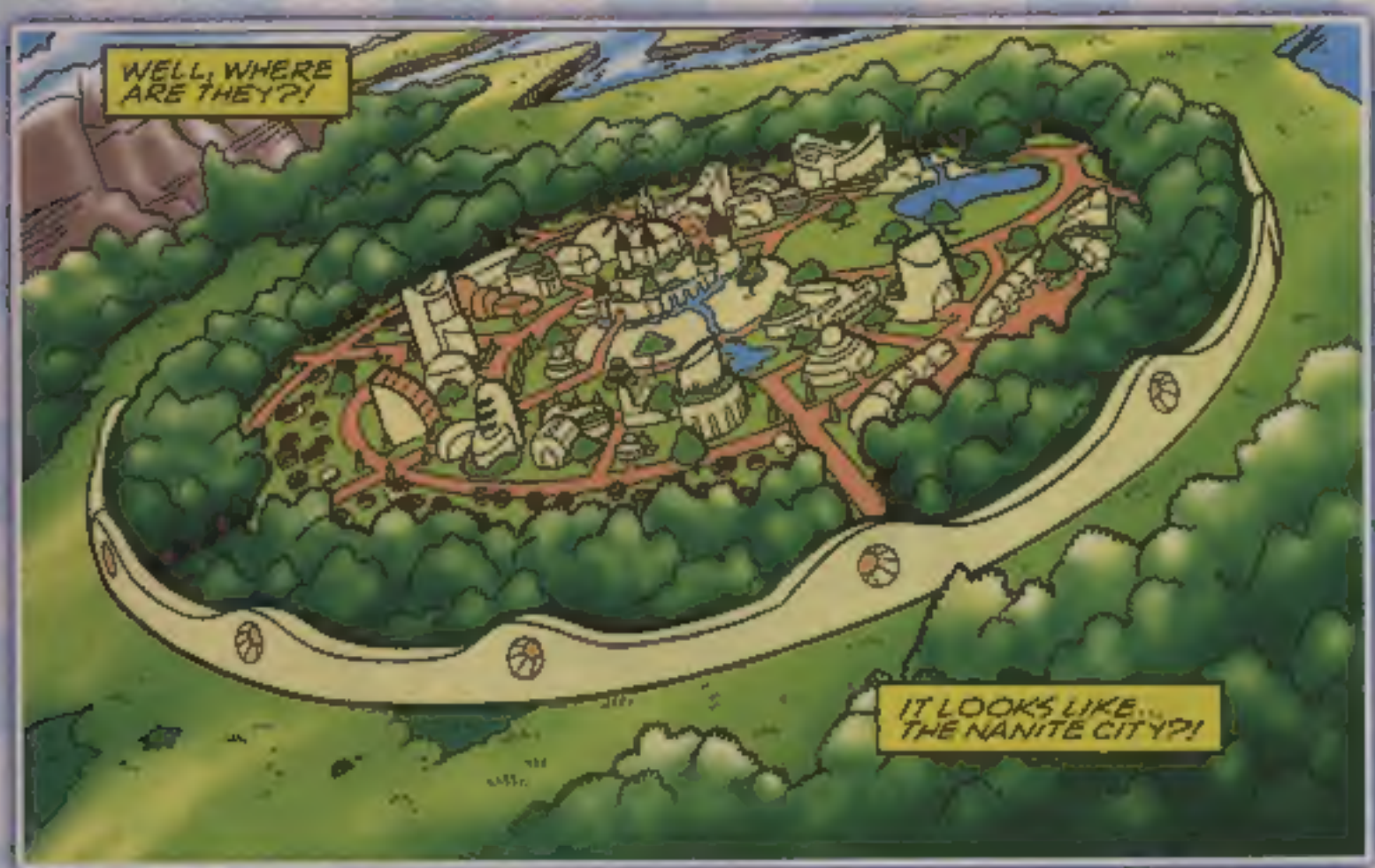
Sweethearts Bunnie and Antoine seemed to be over too when Antoine's evil twin, Patch, tried to ruin his life.

Antoine's father was fatally poisoned, and Antoine was nearly lost to the evil Zone of Moebius.

Perhaps worst of all, Dr. Robotnik sent in his Egg Fleet and burned Knothole to the ground! The old clubhouse, now the remote base Freedom H.Q., suffered heavy damage. All seemed lost . . .

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Jon Gray, Ron Lim, Al Bigley, Jim Amash & Tracy Yardley!

...but there were happy endings after all! Sonic exposed Patch and rescued Antoine. Antoine set things right and married Bunnie in a glorious celebration! Sonic and Sally are friends again – and perhaps maybe more...?



And while their old homes were lost, our heroes were greeted by new ones! Nicole took control of one of Dr. Robotnik's failed experiments – the nanites! Using these microscopic machines, she recreated their old city and homes as New Mobotropolis!

With a sparkling new city and Freedom H.Q. repaired, our heroes are well prepared to continue the fight to free Mobius from the Eggman Empire!

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Tracy Yardley! & Jim Amash

DATA-FILE: KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

Knuckles was raised by his father, Locke, on Angel Island.

When he was left to fend for himself as a young boy, Knuckles thought he was the last of his kind, destined to be the Guardian alone.

Instead, Knuckles has come to learn a great deal about his epic lineage. He was just one of a long line of Guardians called the Brotherhood.

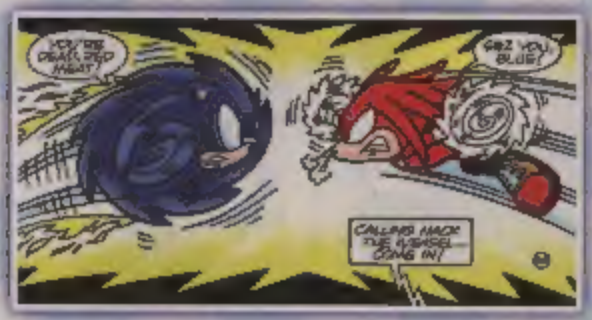
He learned he was directly tied to a group of technology-worshiping cyborgs called the Dark Legion and the powerful chaos god Enerjak.

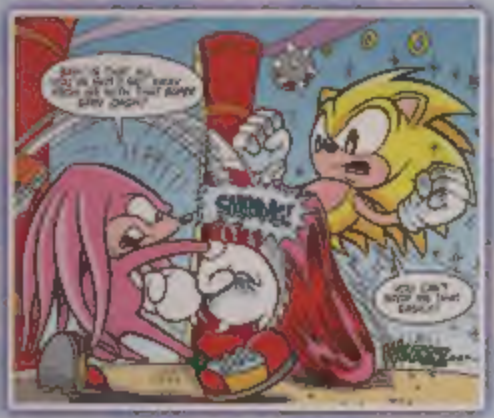
Knuckles has fought with the toughest foes, delved into the past, and seen both sides of life and death in his duties. While he's a little smarter and a little stronger now, he's still the same gruff, heroic Guardian of Angel Island!

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante

DATA-FILE: SONIC & KNUCKLES

Sonic and Knuckles haven't always been friends – quite the opposite! They've fought time and again – usually under a misunderstanding. They've fought on equal footing, as roboticized super-robians, and even in their super-forms!





But time has taught our heroes to trust each other. They may not always get along, but Sonic and Knuckles share a deep trust and fight together to protect both Angel Island and the whole of Mobius.

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Dave Manak, Jon D'Agostino, Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante, Harvey Mercadoocasio, Art Mawhinney, Rich Koslowski, Tracy Yardley! & Jim Amash

DATA FILE: THE CHAOTIX

Knuckles the Echidna – Guardian of Angel Island and team leader. He uses his combat skills and his command of the Master Emerald to protect his homeland.

Julie-Su – Once a Dark Legionnaire, she's always at Knuckles' side. She uses her cybernetics and marksmanship to help win the day

Vector the Crocodile – As de facto leader, Vector uses his incredible strength and super-soundwave headphones to command the team when Knuckles is away.

Espio the Chameleon – Quick, precise, invisible – Espio uses all these traits to make himself a superb ninja!

Mighty the Armadillo – Perhaps the strongest Mobian alive, Mighty uses his super-strength to protect his friends. He has a gentle nature.

Charmy Bee – Once a prince, Charmy's mind suffered a set-back by Dr. Robotnik. While childlike, Charmy is still brave and loyal!

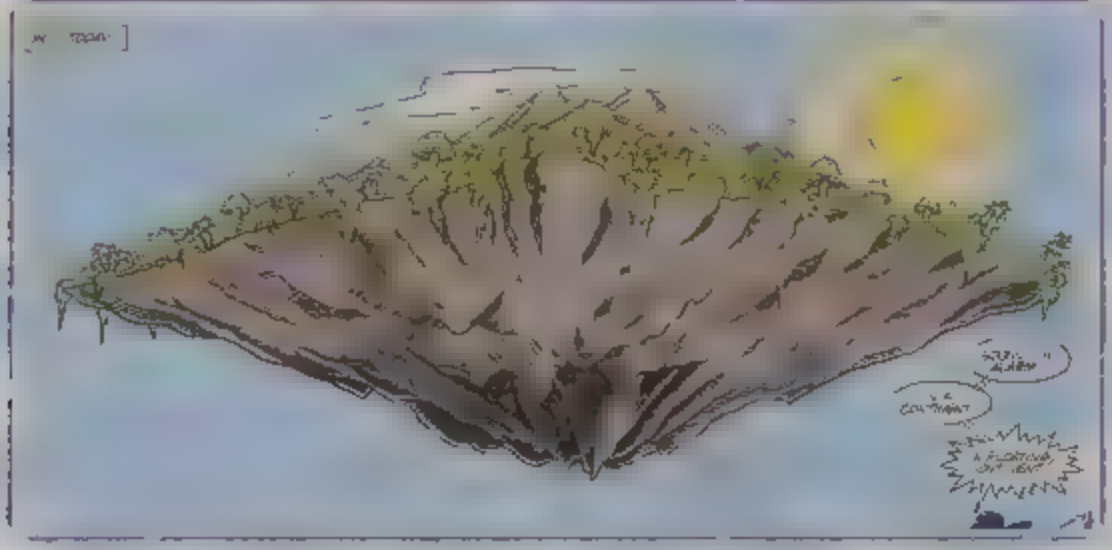
Saffron Bee – Charmy's dearest friend. She does her best in every mission to keep her beloved safe.

Ray the Flying Squirrel – Ray is to Mighty as Tails is to Sonic. His flight and sunny disposition let him rise to any occasion!

Archimedes the Fire-Ant – Ancient and wise, Archimedes has resumed his role as Knuckles' mentor.

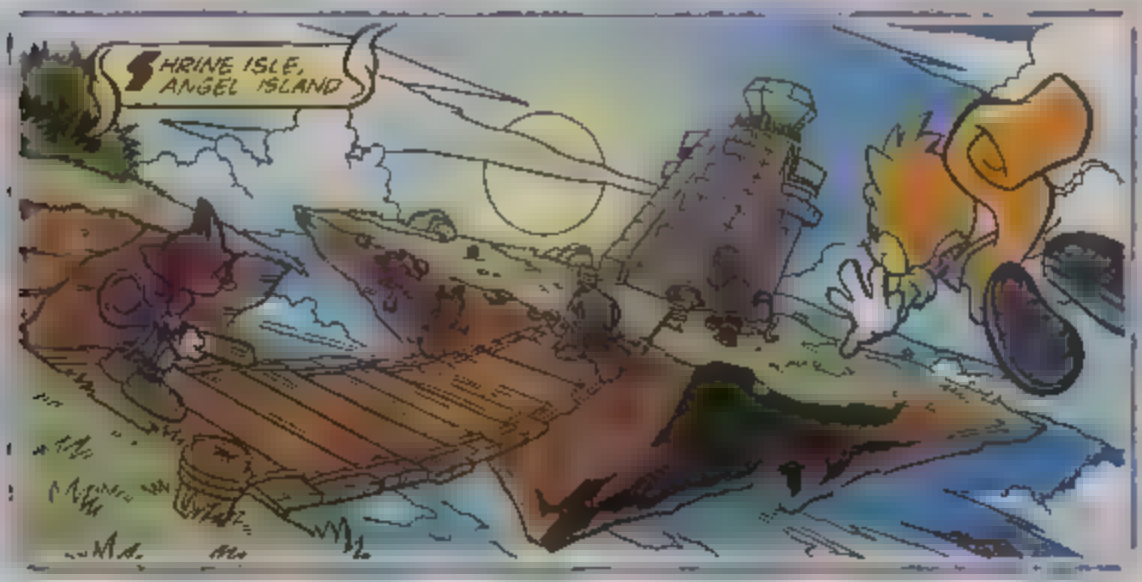
INFORMATION GATHERED BY Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY Tracy Yardley & Jim Amash

DATA FILE: FLOATING ISLAND



Angel Island is a floating continent that slowly orbits Mobius. It was once part of the continent of Downunda and was raised into the sky by echidna scientists using the power of the Chaos Emeralds.

A vital strategic point for anyone, it's been the target for multiple take-overs, but it's almost always been under Knuckles' control. Angel Island is home to many wonders, including Shrine Isle – a tiny speck of land that holds the Master Emerald. Once the homeland of Echidnaopolis and many factions, it is now almost entirely natural except for the Chaotix and Gen. Helmut von Stryker's Dingo Exiles out in the Sandopolis Desert. The Chaotix take shifts guarding the Master Emerald, moving between Angel Island and New Mobotropolis via Warp Rings.



INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn. VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Art Mawhinney, Rich Koslowski, Tracy Yardley & Jim Amash

DATA-FILE SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG

Shadow the Hedgehog is the ultimate lifeform! He was created 50 years ago by Dr. Robotnik's grandfather, Prof. Gerald Robotnik.

The professor used alien DNA to accelerate his research into creating the perfect living thing.

Under pressure from both his government and his alien "allies," Professor Gerald had to make Shadow a living weapon. Shadow's only friend in those early days was the professor's granddaughter, Maria.

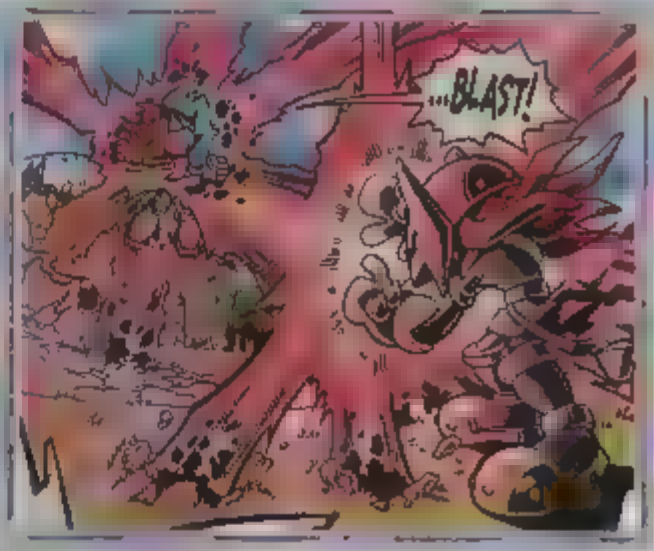
It was her illness that the professor hoped to cure through Shadow. Sadly, when the military seized the research facilities, Maria was killed. Shadow was put into stasis and programmed to destroy the world by the grieving professor. 50 years later, Dr. Robotnik found and unleashed Shadow upon the world.

Since then, Shadow has had to come to grips with who he is, what he is, and how to live his life. It has been a difficult journey, but he's settled as one of G.U.N.'s top agents. You can follow Shadow's first few missions in the brand new spin-off series, "Sonic Universe!"

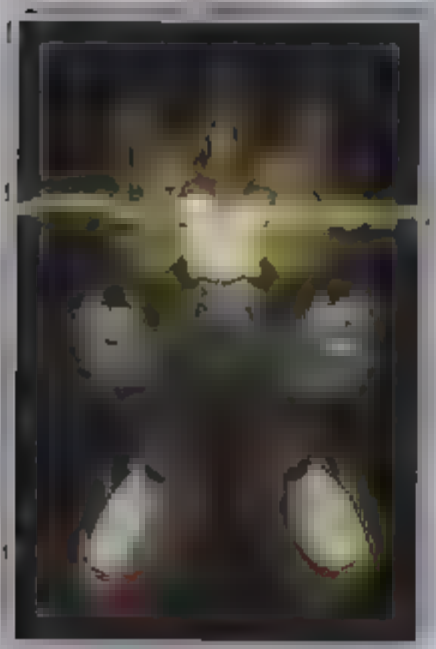
INFORMATION [illegible] BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante, Tracy Yardley & Jim Amash

DATA-FILE: SHADOW'S CHAOS CONTROL POWERS

Chaos Spear – Shadow channels chaos energy into a spear-like bolt of energy It can be weak enough to stun a target, or powerful enough to destroy a robot!



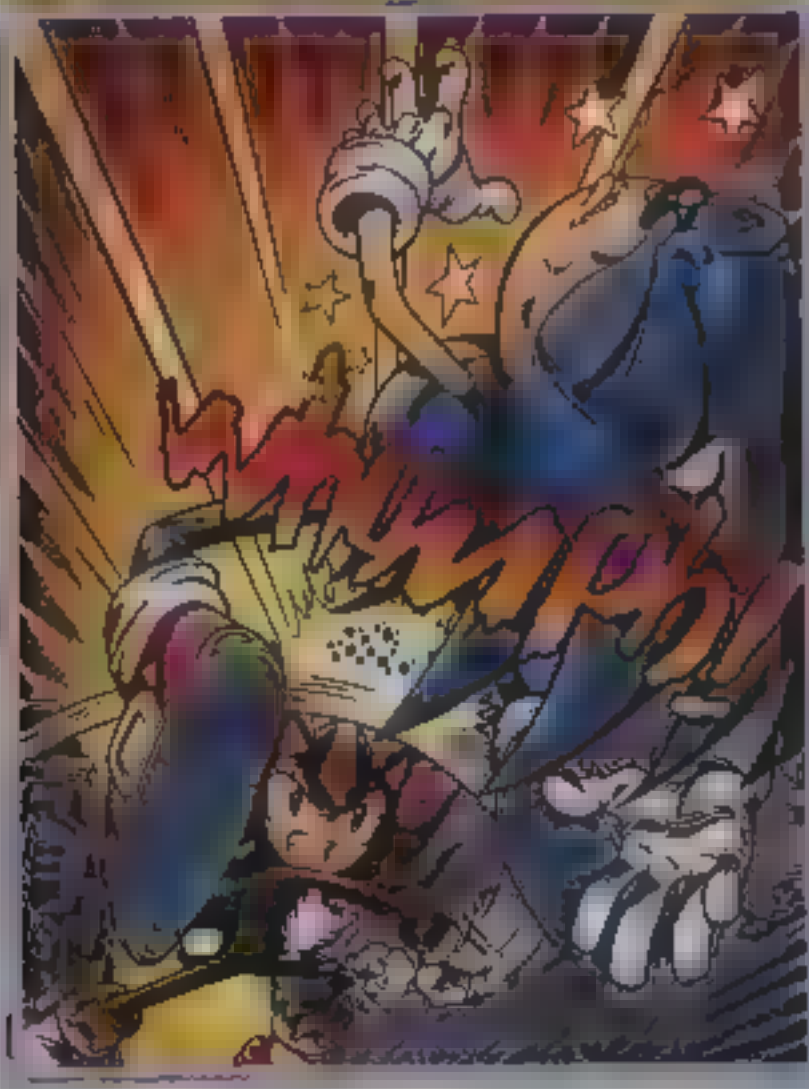
Chaos Blast – Shadow explodes with chaos power! This is a dangerous move that can hurt friend and foe alike, so he uses it only in the most extreme situations.



Chaos Shadow – The gold bands on Shadow's wrists are his "inhibitor rings." They help keep his chaos power-channel-ing in check. When he takes them off, he becomes "Chaos Shadow" – raw, uncontrollable power!

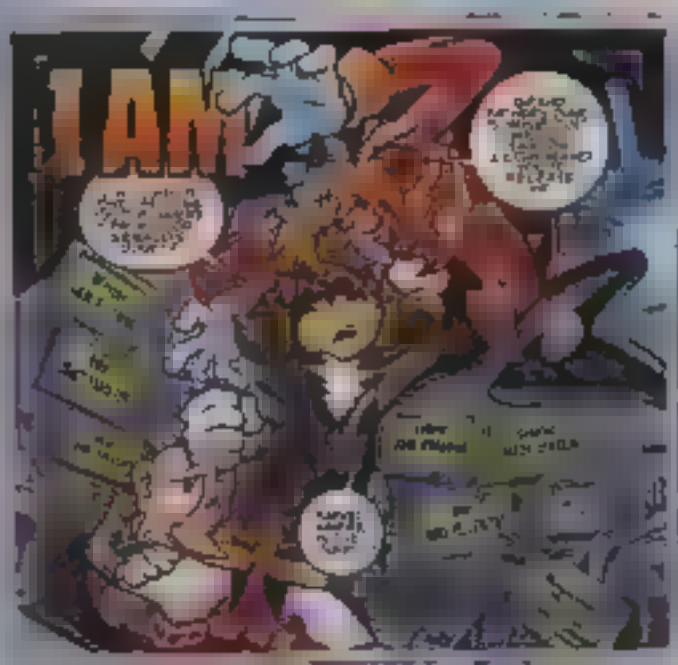
Super Shadow – Just like Sonic, when Shadow gets the seven Chaos Emeralds, he turns into Super Shadow! When "super," Shadow is faster than anything, invulnerable, able to fly, and all his chaos powers are magnified a hundred-fold!

INFORMATION GATHERED BY Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY Tracy Yardley

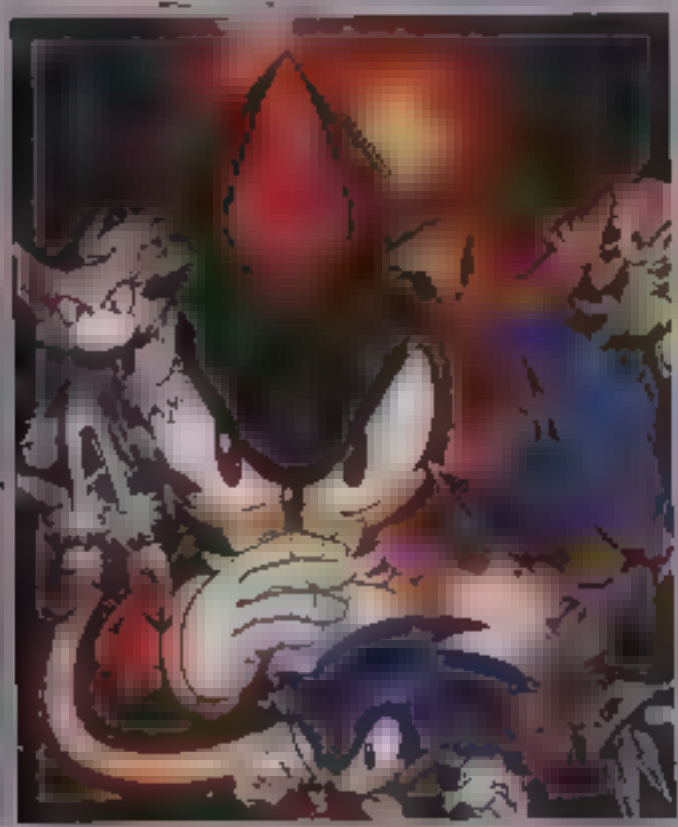


When he was first awakened, Shadow tried to destroy the world.

When he learned that mission was implanted in him, he served Dr. Robotnik in hopes of finding his truecalling. He clashed with Sonic a few times . . .



. . . until he discovered the doctor had been tricking him! Shadow rebelled against the Eggman Empire, then struck out on his own for a time. Eventually, he joined the military of the United Federation: the Guardian Units of the Nation, or G.U.N.



Now Shadow is G.U.N.'s premier agent! He was sent on a mission to find the home of the Chaos Emeralds – the Special Zone! Instead, he wound up in the middle of a fight with Sonic, then to a whole new world. You can see where Shadow's mission takes him next in "Sonic Universe."

INFORMATION GATHERED BY [illegible] VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY Tracy Yardley, Jim Amash, Steven Butler & Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante

DATA-FILE: DR. IVO "EGGMAN" ROBOTNIK

This is the face of evil. Dr. Robotnik has ruled over all of Mobius - almost uninterrupted - for nearly fifteen years.

He earned the nickname "Eggman" from the shape of his body, but he took the teasing and turned it on its ear with the christening of his Eggman Empire.

At a time, Dr. Robotnik controlled half the world's population through roboticization - a process that turns living Mobians into robots - or "Robians."

He's suffered some set-backs over the years, but despite the efforts of the heroes the world over, he still reigns supreme. Dr. Robotnik hates Sonic the most of all - for his speed, for his defiance, and for being so cool! It's enough to make the mad genius snap!

INFORMATION GATHERED BY Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY Steven U

DATA-FILE: ORIGIN OF EVIL

He was born Julian Kintobor of the House of Ivo. As an adult, he betrayed his people and helped the Kingdom of Acorn win the Great War, only to betray them as well. He renamed himself "Ivo Robotnik" after his grandfather and ancestral house. After many battles with Sonic, he was destroyed by his own invention: the Ultimate Annihilator.

But that wasn't the end of Robotnik! In a parallel time-line, he survived to fight another day. After a lifetime of fighting, he roboticized himself and defeated the grown-up King Sonic! He then traveled back across time and space to the Mobius where he was defeated so he could conquer Mobius all over again. His robot body was destroyed . . .

. . . but his evil coding lived on!

Robotnik lived in cyberspace and jumped from robotic shell to robotic shell, always returning to rebuild his forces and to fight Sonic! He found one shell design he liked best and kept building them in that form – the style we know today!

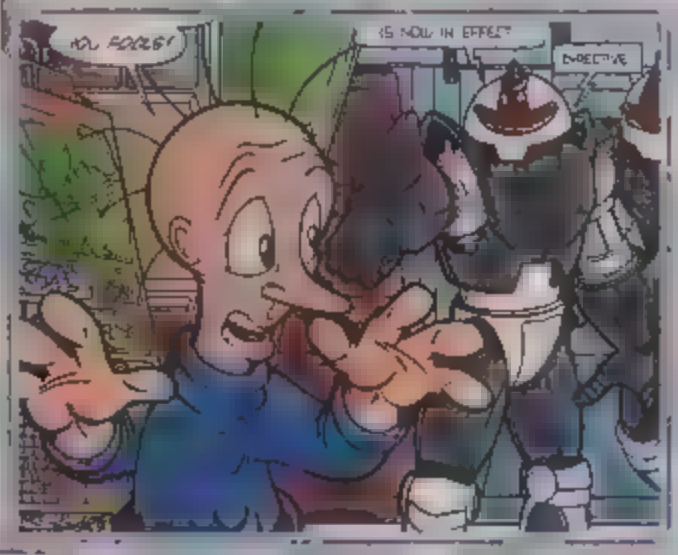
Thanks to the aliens known as the Bem, Robotnik was transformed into a living being once again. While he can't cheat death anymore, he's been made all the more vicious in his dueling with Sonic. His story may be full of twists and turns, but rest assured: it's the same old Robotnik – the same evil genius!

INFORMATION GATHERED BY: Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY: Steven Butler, Jim Amash & Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante

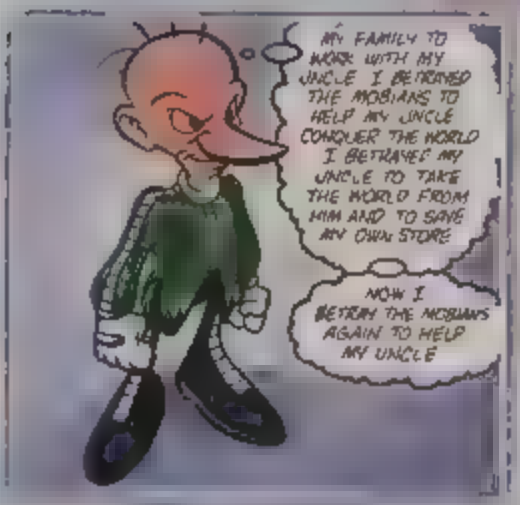
DATA FILE: SNIVELY ROBOTNIK / ROBOTNIK'S LACKEY

Born Colin Kintobor Jr., Snively defected with his Uncle Julian and helped win the Great War for the Kingdom of Acorn. He then helped his uncle conquer the world and changed his name to "Snively."

Snively had no love or loyalty for Robotnik, though!

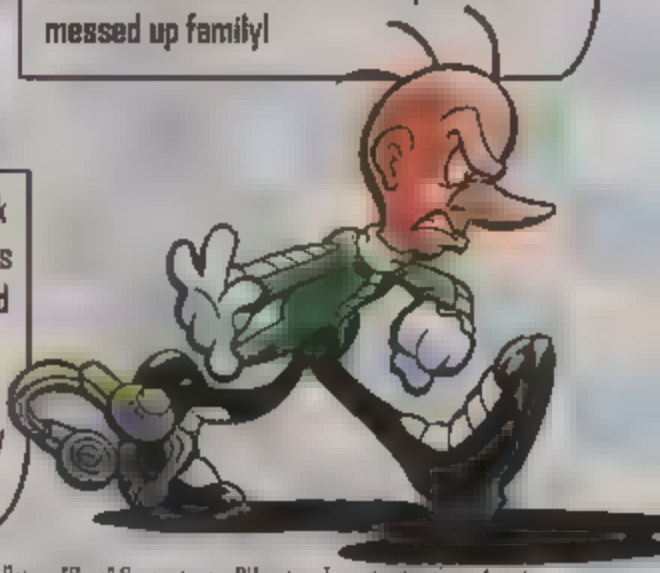


He wanted a quick and easy way to world domination. He's tried many plots and plans to sneak his way into power, but each time it's blown up in his face.



Why do the two stick together, you ask? Snively knows he's being bullied and used, but he wants power too much! Robotnik knows Snively is a cheat, but he also knows he'll be loyal until the time is right – so he makes the best of it now. They're one messed up family!

But is the time right now? Dr. Robotnik is showing signs of truly going mad, his troops are eager for a new leader, and Snively is trading love notes with a mysterious someone! Pick up "Sonic the Hedgehog" #201 to find out exactly what's going on!



INFORMATION GATHERED BY Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante, Jon D'Agostino, Tracy Yardley & Jim Amash

DATA FILE THE DARK EGG LEGION

At first they were just the "Dark Legion" – a group of cybernetically-enhanced echidnas exiled to the Twilight Cage. They returned to Mobius once every few decades to battle the Guardian of the time and try to conquer Angel Island.

Dimitri is the Grandmaster of the Dark Egg Legion – and Knuckles' distant uncle! He was once a brilliant scientist whose ambitions led him to become the chaos god Enerjak! But when he lost his powers, 600 years of aging caught up with him – fast! Now he survives as a brilliant mind in a robot head. Thanks to Dr. Robotnik he's alive, but is he truly loyal to the Eggman Empire . . .?

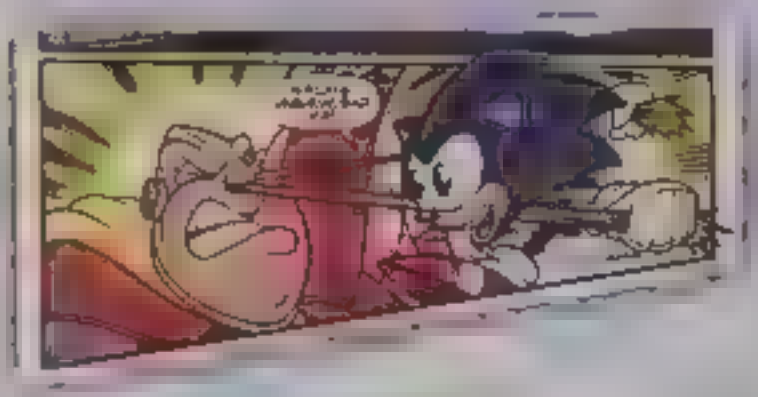
Lien-Da is Kommissar of the Dark Egg Legion and Dimitri's distant grand-daughter. When the Dark Legion lost its cybernetics to a magic attack, she sold out her people to Dr. Robotnik so that she could get her enhancements back – and to grab power!

Unfortunately for her, she always seems to be stuck as the second-in-command – for how long?

The name "Dark Egg Legion" is starting to broaden in meaning. More and more Mobians are giving in to the power of Dr. Robotnik's cybernetics! Just who is in these new chapters of the Dark Egg Legion? You'll just have to follow "Sonic Universe" to find out!

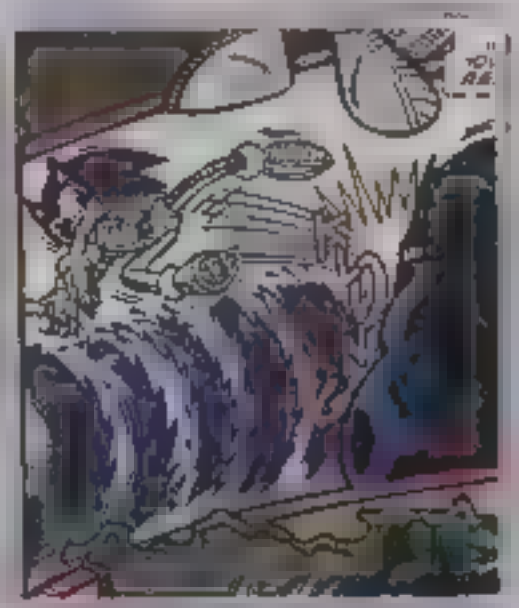
INFORMATION GATHERED BY Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY Tracy Yardley, Ken Penders & Jim Amash

DATA-FILE SONIC VS ROBOTNIK

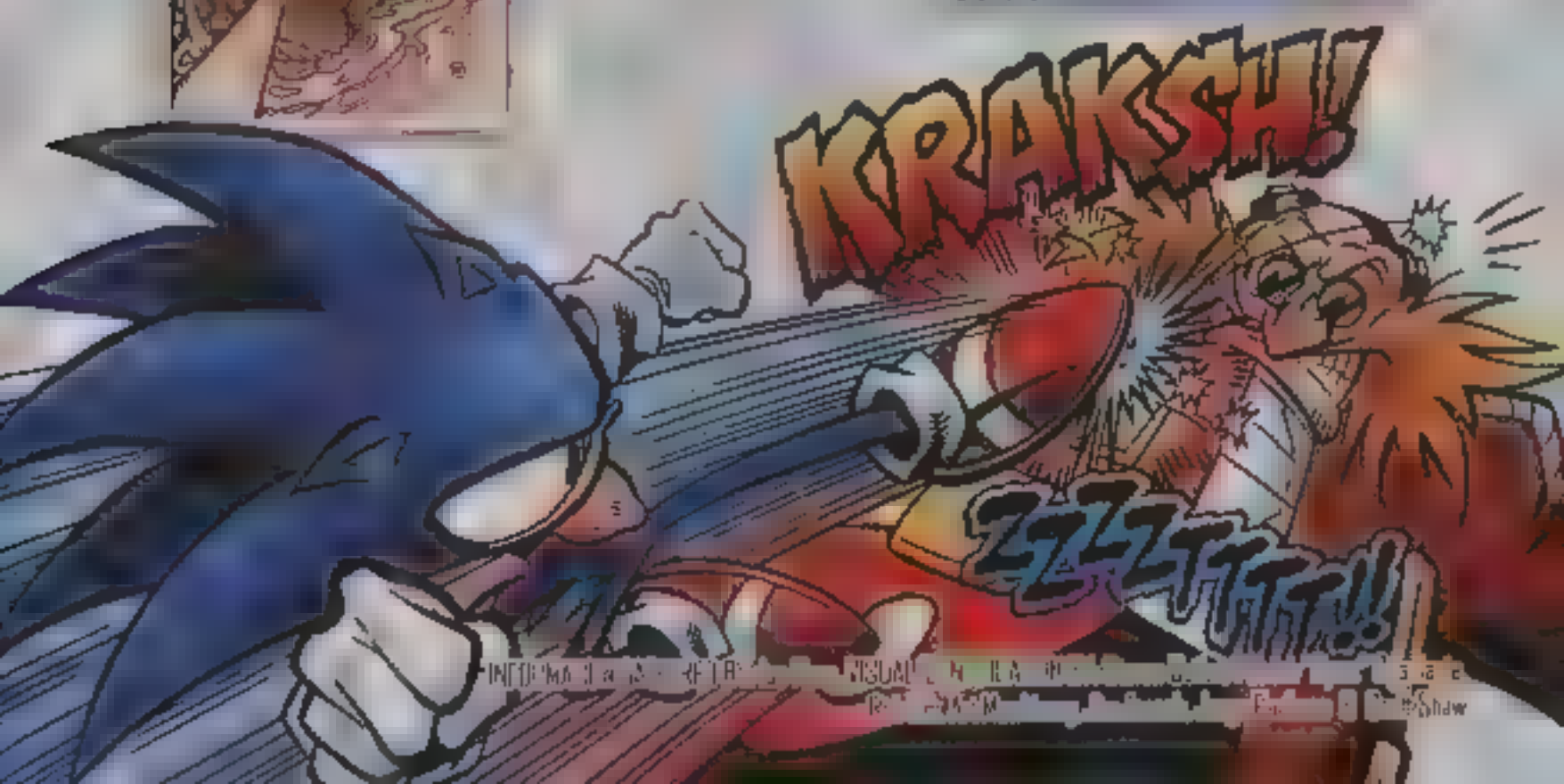


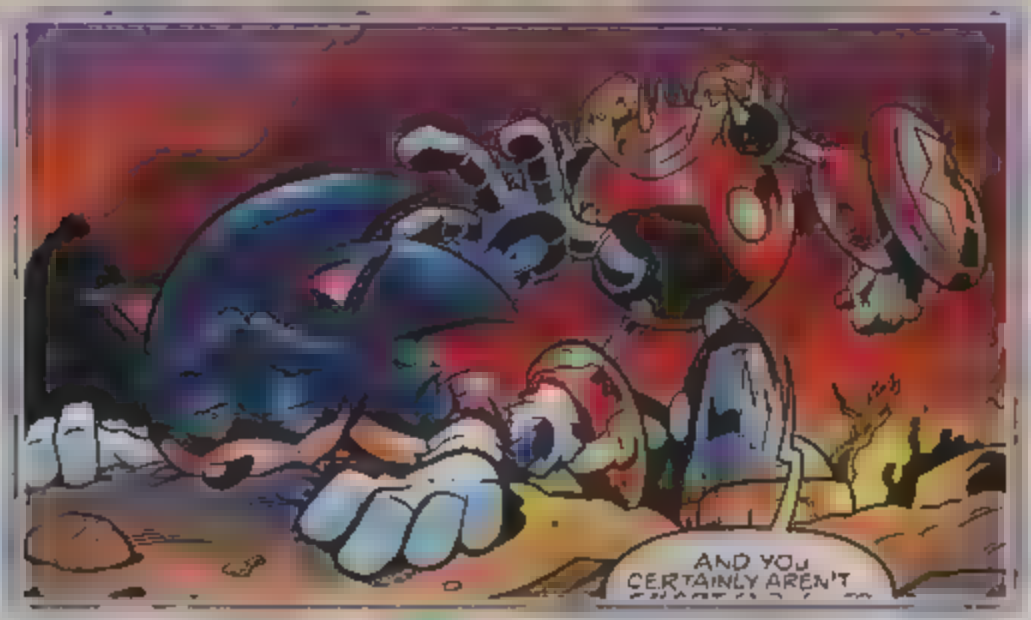
The battle between Sonic and Dr. Robotnik has been a long one! Even when Sonic was little he still challenged the mighty despot!

From the leafy Great Forest to the smog-choked skyline of Robotropolis they battled! Hundreds of robots and dozens of designs were thrown at our hero – and he smashed through them all!



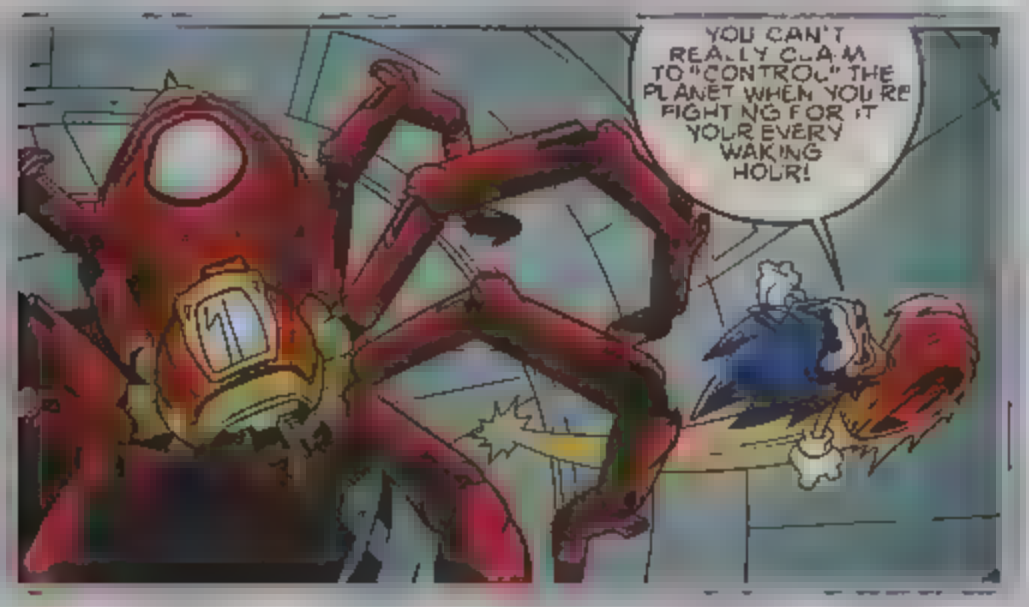
They battled in the wake of the Ultimate Annihilator. They've battled in space, on land, sea, and across dimensions! Each and every time, Sonic has come out on top!



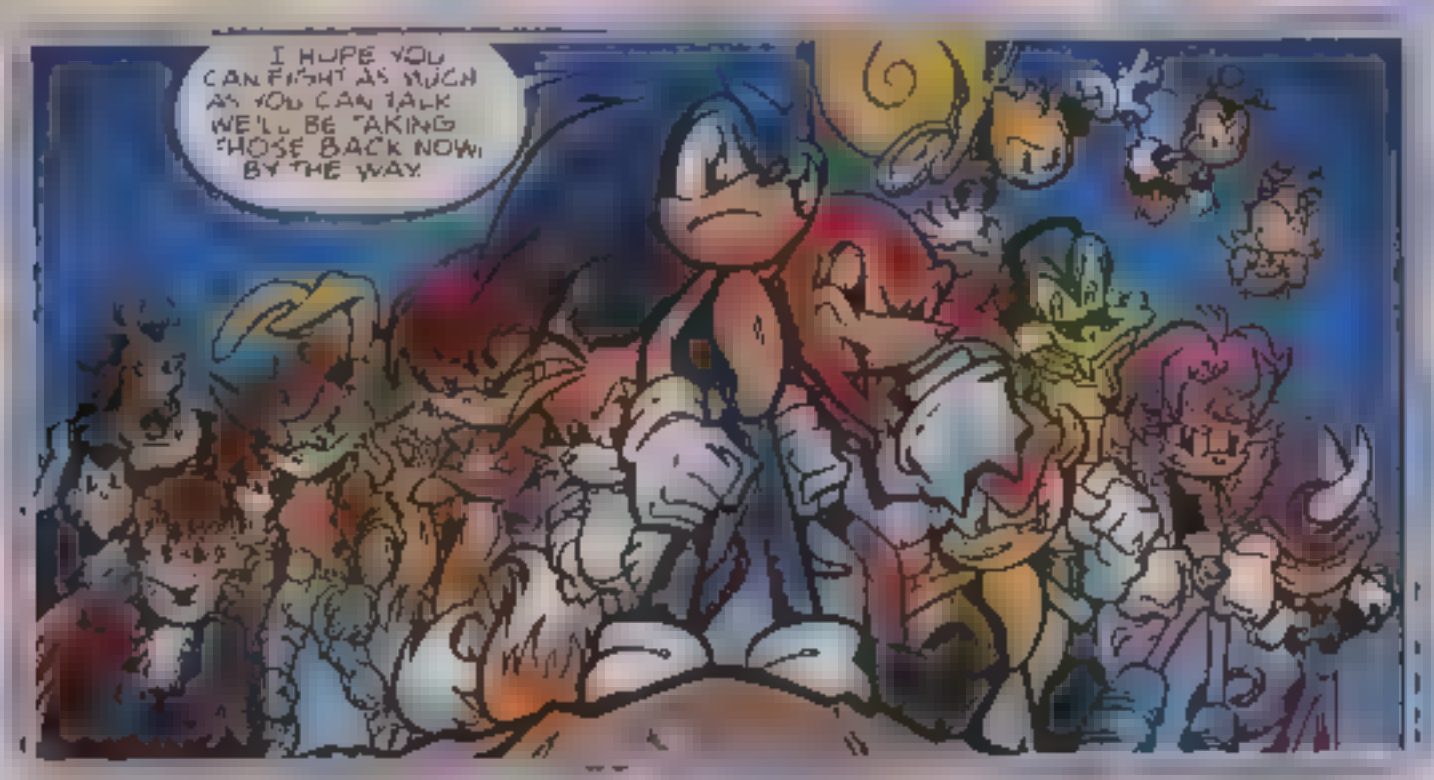


Then Dr. Robotnik developed his most powerful battle armor to date and finally won the day! Sonic was beaten – body and spirit – and left in the literal ashes of his defeat.

Sonic rallied back and managed to save his friends, but the defeat has been riding on his mind. In terms of one-on-one combat, they seemed to be tied. Now, in "Sonic the Hedgehog" #200, they meet again for what may be their final confrontation!



INFORMATION GATHERED BY Ian Flynn VISUAL IDENTIFICATION BY Tracy Yardley & Jim Amash



The Freedom Fighters and the Chaotix have had many adventures over the past two hundred issues. Sometimes they've fought each other, but more often they've fought together – for friends, for family, and for Mobius! But a new threat looms on the horizon! A power-shift is coming to the Eggman Empire and new villains are set to give our heroes a run for their money! Now is a great time to dive into all the fun and excitement!

Don't miss out on all the epic action and adventure with SONIC THE HEDGEHOG and SONIC UNIVERSE!

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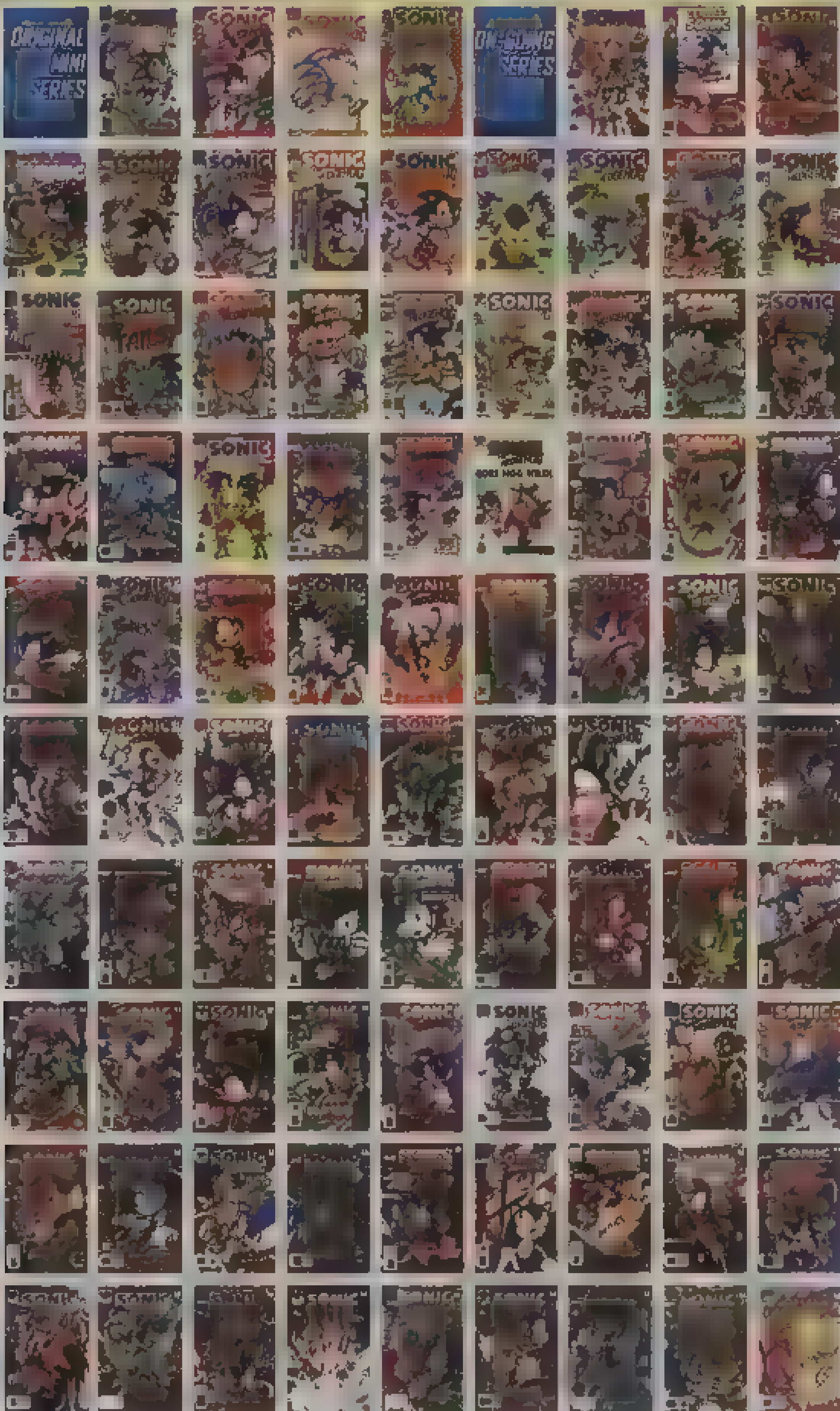

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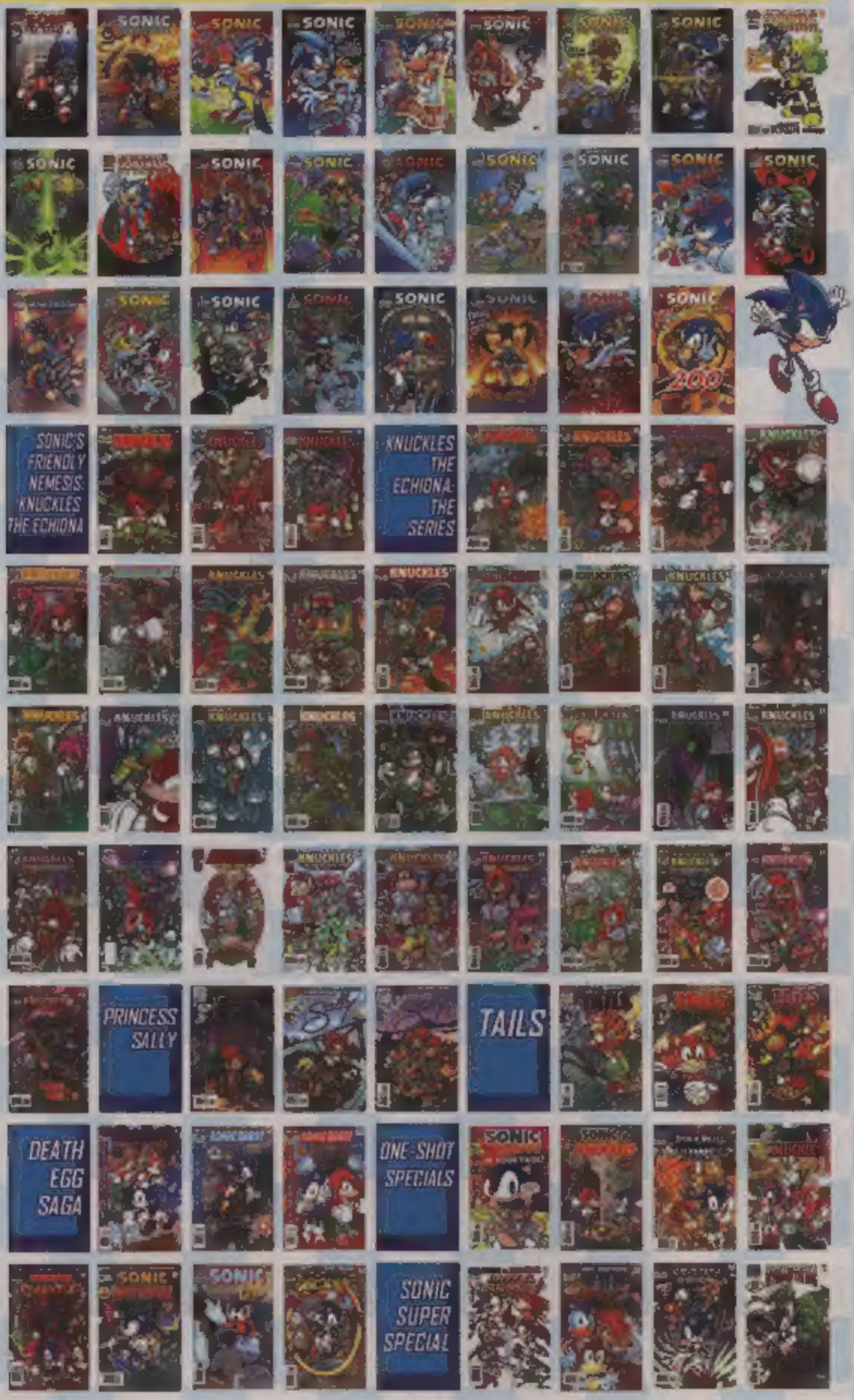
DATA-FILE: COVER GALLERY



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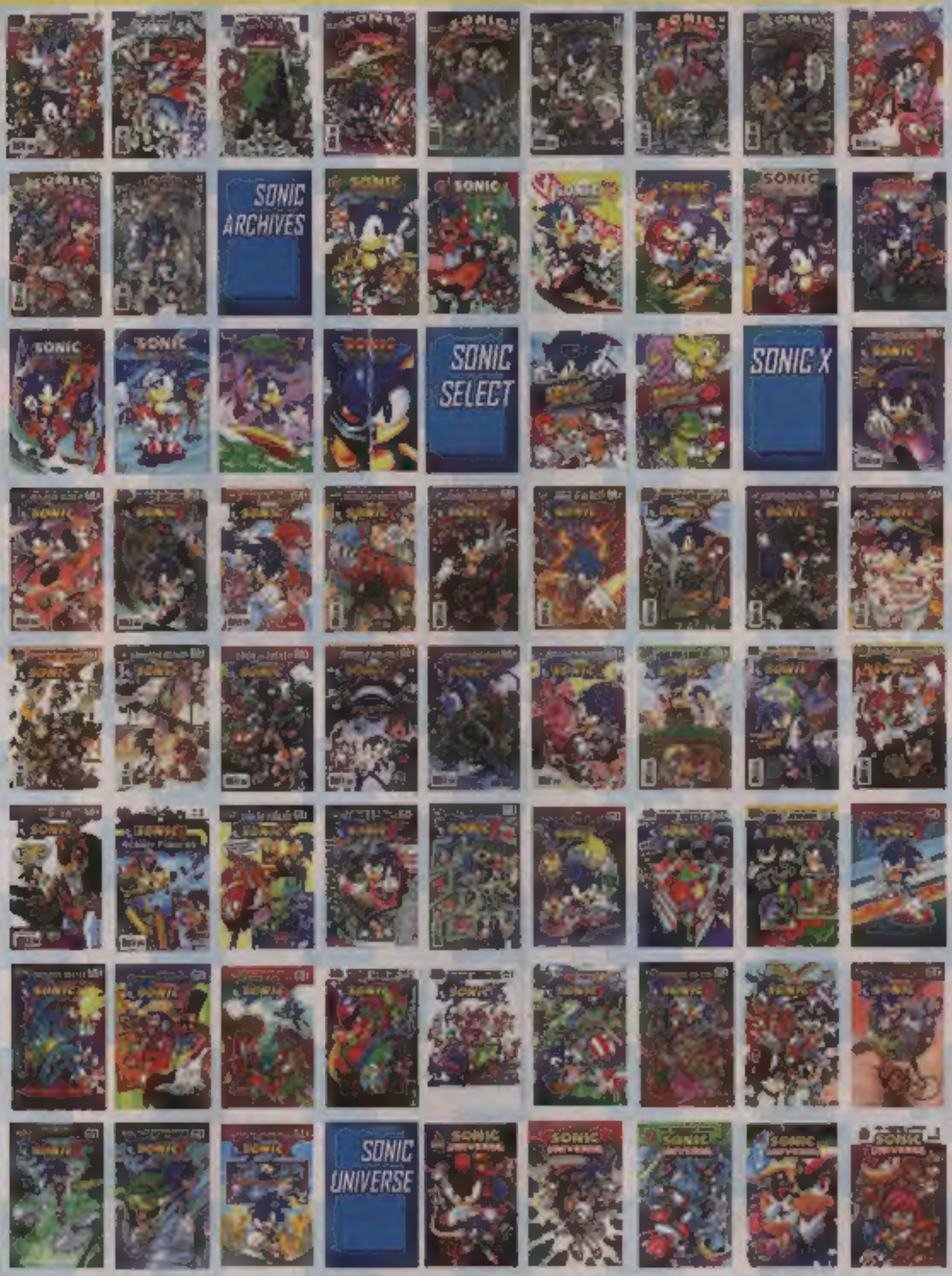

Thank you for joining us for Free Comic Book Day and for this trip down memory lane. It may have gone by fast, but what else would you expect from Sonic the Hedgehog? We're excited to announce the beginning of a brand new SONIC title: SONIC UNIVERSE! We're starting off in grand style with a special three-part cross over. Here's a check list so you won't miss out on the fun!

Part 1 – Sonic the Hedgehog #196 "Hedgehog Havoc" Part 2 – Sonic X #48 "The End"
Part 3 – Sonic Universe #1 "Living Weapons"

THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES...

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

#199 ON SALE THE WEEK OF 4/20/09

#200 ON SALE THE WEEK OF 5/25/09

#1 ON SALE THE WEEK OF 3/9/09

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#3 ON SALE THE WEEK OF 5/11/09

#4 ON SALE THE WEEK OF 6/8/09

AND BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE BRAND NEW SONIC ONGOING SERIES...

SONIC UNIVERSE™

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